

- 14 -

What is claimed is:

1. A method for treating nausea and/or vomiting, comprising the step of:
applying electrical current from an external current source to a vagus nerve of a patient to reduce nausea and/or vomiting.
2. The method of claim 1, further including steps of:
applying one or more electrodes on or under the skin;
connecting the electrodes to the external current source; and
passing current from the external current source to the electrodes, thereby stimulating the vagus nerve to reduce nausea and/or vomiting.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the electrodes are placed on or under the skin of the neck near the vagus nerve.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein the electrodes are placed on or under the skin proximate the left vagus nerve.
5. The method of claim 2, further including the step of implanting the electrodes under the skin.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the current is passed to the electrodes by magnetic induction.
7. The method of claim 5, wherein the electrodes are connected to internal electronics and an inductive pickup loop implanted under the skin.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein an inductive loop transmitter is connected to the external current source.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein the inductive loop transmitter and the inductive pickup loop form a magnetic inductive link.

- 15 -

10. The method of claim 2, wherein the applying step includes placing the electrodes directly on the skin.
11. The method of claim 2, wherein the electrodes are attached to the skin by using paste or collodion.
12. The method of claim 2, wherein the electrodes are placed on or under the skin of the abdomen.
13. The method of claim 2, wherein the electrodes are placed on or near the esophagus.
14. The method of claim 2, wherein the electrodes are placed on or near the stomach, duodenum, or intestines.
15. The method of claim 2, wherein the external current source is connected to external stimulator electronics for controlling one or more pulses delivered to the electrodes.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein the external stimulator electronics include a button for actuating the external current source to pass the current to the electrodes.
17. The method of claim 15, wherein the external stimulator electronics pass the current periodically or continuously.
18. The method of claim 15, wherein the external stimulator electronics control the duration of pulses, number of pulses, and frequency of pulses.
19. The method of claim 15, wherein the external stimulator electronics provide current to the electrodes through a magnetic inductive link.
20. The method of claim 14, wherein the external stimulator electronics are connected directly to the electrodes.

- 16 -

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the electrodes are stimulated by direct electrical stimulation.
22. The method of claim 20, wherein nervous tissue is stimulated by direct magnetic stimulation.
23. The method of claim 15, wherein the external stimulator electronics are operated in a direct electrical stimulation mode.
24. The method of claim 15, wherein the external stimulator electronics are operated in a direct magnetic stimulation mode.
25. The method of claim 2, wherein the stimulation is actuated manually.
26. The method of claim 2, wherein the stimulation is actuated automatically.
27. The method of claim 2, wherein the stimulation is turned on and off automatically at designated times.
28. The method of claim 2, wherein the external current source supplies alternating current to the electrodes through one or more wires.
29. A method for treating nausea and/or vomiting of a pregnant female, comprising the step of:
applying electrical current to a vagus nerve of the pregnant female to thereby reduce nausea and/or vomiting.
30. The method of claim 29, wherein the female has been selected and/or identified as suffering from nausea and/or vomiting associated with pregnancy and thereafter the vagus nerve is treated with electrical stimulation.

- 17 -

31. A method for treating nausea and vomiting, comprising the steps of:
implanting one or more electrodes under the skin;
connecting the electrodes to an external current source; and
passing current from the external current source to the electrodes by magnetic induction, thereby stimulating the vagus nerve to reduce nausea and vomiting.
32. A method for treating nausea and vomiting, comprising the steps of:
placing one or more electrodes on the skin;
connecting the electrodes to an external current source; and
passing current from the external current source to the electrodes, thereby stimulating the vagus nerve to reduce nausea and vomiting.
33. A method for treating nausea and vomiting, comprising the steps of:
placing a magnetic stimulation coil on or near the skin;
connecting the magnetic stimulation coil to an external current source; and
passing current from the external current source to the magnetic stimulation coil, thereby stimulating the vagus nerve to reduce nausea and vomiting.
34. A method for treating nausea and/or vomiting of a chemotherapy patient, comprising the step of:
applying electrical current to a vagus nerve of the patient to thereby reduce nausea and/or vomiting.
35. The method of claim 34, wherein the chemotherapy patient has been selected and/or identified as suffering from nausea and/or vomiting associated with chemotherapy treatment and thereafter the vagus nerve is treated with electrical stimulation.
36. The method of claim 34, wherein nervous tissue is stimulated by direct magnetic stimulation.
37. A method for treating nausea and/or vomiting of a patient suffering from severe

- 18 -

motion sickness, comprising the step of:

applying electrical current to a vagus nerve of the patient to thereby reduce nausea and/or vomiting.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein the patient has been selected and/or identified as suffering from nausea and/or vomiting associated with severe motion sickness and thereafter the vagus nerve is treated with electrical stimulation.

39. The method of claim 37, wherein nervous tissue is stimulated by direct magnetic stimulation.

40. A system for treating nausea and vomiting, comprising:
one or more electrodes applied on or under the skin; and
an external current source for supplying current to the electrodes from outside the body, thereby stimulating the vagus nerve to reduce nausea and vomiting.

41. The system of claim 40, wherein the electrodes are placed on or under the skin of the neck near the vagus nerve.

42. The system of claim 40, wherein the electrodes are placed on or under the skin proximate the left vagus nerve.

43. The system of claim 40, wherein the current is passed to the electrodes by magnetic induction.

44. The system of claim 40, further including internal electronics and an inductive pickup loop implanted under the skin.

45. The system of claim 44, further including an inductive loop transmitter connected to the external current source.

- 19 -

46. The system of claim 45, wherein the inductive loop transmitter and the inductive pickup loop form a magnetic inductive link.
47. The system of claim 40, wherein the electrodes are placed directly on the skin.
48. The system of claim 40, wherein the electrodes are attached to the skin by using paste or collodion.
49. The system of claim 40, wherein the electrodes are placed on or under the skin of the abdomen.
50. The system of claim 40, wherein the electrodes are placed on or near the esophagus.
51. The system of claim 40, wherein the electrodes are placed on or near the stomach, duodenum, or intestines.
52. The system of claim 40, wherein the external current source is connected to external stimulator electronics for controlling one or more pulses delivered to the electrodes.
53. The system of claim 52, wherein the external stimulator electronics includes a button for actuating the external current source to pass the current to the electrodes.
54. The system of claim 52, wherein the external stimulator electronics pass the current periodically or continuously.
55. The system of claim 52, wherein the external stimulator electronics control the duration of pulses, number of pulses, and frequency of pulses.
56. The system of claim 52, wherein the external stimulator electronics provide current to the electrodes through a magnetic inductive link.

- 20 -

57. The system of claim 52, wherein the external stimulator electronics are connected directly to the electrodes.
58. The system of claim 57, wherein the electrodes are stimulated by direct electrical stimulation.
59. The system of claim 57, wherein nervous tissue is stimulated by direct magnetic stimulation.
60. The system of claim 52, wherein the external stimulator electronics are operated in a direct electrical stimulation mode.
61. The system of claim 52, wherein the external stimulator electronics are operated in a direct magnetic stimulation mode.
62. The system of claim 40, wherein the stimulation is actuated manually.
63. The system of claim 40, wherein the stimulation is actuated automatically.
64. The system of claim 40, wherein the stimulation is turned on and off automatically at designated times.
65. A system for treating nausea and vomiting, comprising:
one or more electrodes implanted under the skin; and
an external current source for supplying current to the electrodes from outside the body by magnetic induction, thereby stimulating the vagus nerve to reduce nausea and vomiting.
66. A system for treating nausea and vomiting, comprising:
one or more electrodes placed on the skin; and
an external current source for supplying current to the electrodes from outside the

- 21 -

body, thereby stimulating the vagus nerve to reduce nausea and vomiting.

67. A system for treating nausea and vomiting, comprising:
a magnetic stimulation coil placed on or near the skin; and
an external current source for supplying current to the magnetic stimulation coil from outside the body, thereby stimulating the vagus nerve to reduce nausea and vomiting.